

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 156**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Greenstein and Lagana

SYNOPSIS

Strongly urges DEP to adopt standards for certain drinking water contaminants as recommended by NJ Drinking Water Quality Institute.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/6/2019)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** strongly urging the Department of
2 Environmental Protection to adopt standards for certain drinking
3 water contaminants as recommended by the New Jersey Drinking
4 Water Quality Institute.
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6 **WHEREAS**, The maintenance of high quality potable water is essential
7 in order to safeguard the health and welfare of the people of the
8 State; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Recognizing this, in 1977, the Legislature passed the “Safe
10 Drinking Water Act,” which, among other things, directed the New
11 Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to adopt and
12 enforce State primary drinking water regulations; and
13 **WHEREAS**, In 1983, amendments to the act created the Drinking Water
14 Quality Institute (DWQI), a panel of experts tasked with developing
15 standards for hazardous contaminants in drinking water and
16 recommending those standards for adoption by the DEP; and
17 **WHEREAS**, The 1983 amendments also directed the DEP, after
18 considering the recommendations of the DWQI, to establish
19 standards for 22 listed organic compounds and any other
20 contaminants that are present in New Jersey drinking water and
21 may be harmful to human health; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Despite the State’s strides in improving the quality of
23 drinking water, today many contaminants remain unregulated,
24 including several specified in the 1983 amendments; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Since at least 2005, the DEP has failed to adopt new or
26 more stringent standards for approximately 16 contaminants, even
27 though the DWQI has made recommendations concerning those
28 contaminants; and
29 **WHEREAS**, The DWQI’s recommendations include new or more
30 stringent standards for: perchlorate, a hazardous industrial
31 chemical used in the production of explosives; radon-222, a
32 radioactive gas and known human carcinogen; and formaldehyde,
33 an organic compound used in embalming to temporarily preserve
34 human and animal remains; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Most recently, the DWQI recommended a standard for
36 perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), a hazardous organic chemical
37 recently detected in the drinking water supplies of several
38 municipalities in southern New Jersey; and
39 **WHEREAS**, As the agency responsible for ensuring the safety of the
40 State’s drinking water supply, the DEP has a duty to adopt new and
41 more stringent drinking water standards when doing so would
42 protect the health and welfare of New Jersey residents and visitors;
43 and
44 **WHEREAS**, The DWQI’s recommendations are based on the latest
45 scientific information concerning the health effects of, and testing
46 and treatment methods for, various contaminants and, consequently,
47 the recommendations of the DWQI should be swiftly considered
48 and adopted by the DEP; now, therefore,

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1 Despite the State's strides in improving the quality of drinking
2 water, today many contaminants remain unregulated, including
3 several specified in the 1983 amendments. Since at least 2005, the
4 DEP has failed to adopt new or more stringent standards for
5 approximately 16 contaminants, even though the DWQI has made
6 recommendations concerning those contaminants. The DWQI's
7 recommendations include new or more stringent standards for:
8 perchlorate, a hazardous industrial chemical used in the production
9 of explosives; radon-222, a radioactive gas and known human
10 carcinogen; and formaldehyde, an organic compound used in
11 embalming to temporarily preserve human and animal remains.
12 More recently, the DWQI has recommended a standard for
13 perfluorononanoic acid, a hazardous organic chemical recently
14 detected in the drinking water supplies of several townships in
15 southern New Jersey.

16 As the agency responsible for ensuring the safety of the State's
17 drinking water supply, the DEP has a duty to adopt new and more
18 stringent drinking water standards when doing so would protect the
19 health and welfare of New Jersey residents and visitors. The
20 DWQI's recommendations are based on the latest scientific
21 information concerning the health effects of, and testing and
22 treatment methods for, various contaminants. As such, the
23 recommendations of the DWQI should be swiftly considered and
24 adopted by the DEP.